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DRAFT

12 April 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR: COMMANDING GENERALS,
SECOND SERVICE COMMAND
SIXTH SERVICE COMMAND
NINTH SERVICE COMMAND
DIRECTORS, STAFF DIVISIONS, ASF
CHIEFS, TECHNICAL SERVICES, ASF

*ARMY
Declass/Release
Instructions On File*

SUBJECT: Essential Elements of Information

1. In order that the Military Intelligence Service of the War Department may more efficiently plan its collection of intelligence, it is necessary that the so-called "Essential Elements of Information" be established with respect to the interests of the Army Service Forces. The "Essential Elements of Information" (See Sec III, FM 30-5) consist of that information of the enemy, of domestic subversive elements of any foreign terrain, and of weather conditions in foreign areas which is needed to make sound decisions affecting the conduct of war. The "Essential Elements" are designated for the purpose of focusing the attention and activities of all collecting agencies on that information which, from the viewpoint of those responsible for conducting war, is necessary at a particular time. They include any intelligence specifically required.

2. The preceding paragraph may be briefly summed up by stating that the Military Intelligence Service wants to know what intelligence ASF requires and when.

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3. Accordingly, it is requested that each ASF Staff Division, each Technical Service, ASF and the three Service Commands included in the distribution hereof, prepare a list of the "Essential Elements of Information" based upon the explanation thereof, above. This list should be stated in general terms wherever practicable and should be arranged in three groups, viz:

- a. Information required prior to 1 Jan 1946;
- b. Information required prior to 1 Jan 1947;
- c. Information required on a continuing basis.

4. It should be noted that the scope of the information which may be desired is not restricted to our present enemies nor even to the present war. It includes everything foreign to the United States, and also, with respect to subversive elements only, the United States and its possessions.

5. It is requested that first priority be given to intelligence which may be obtained in Germany and which is required prior to 1 Jan 1946. This requirement to be submitted separately, not later than 1 May 1945.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL SOMERVELL:

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